

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 05488 240753Z

22-12

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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P 240715Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4212

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 5488

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SN

SUBJECT: TRAINING ASSISTANCE FOR SINGAPORE

REF: STATE 300871

1. REFTEL PROVIDED PROPOSED PROGRAM OF INSTRUCTION FOR TRAINING AT FT. BRAGG, INCLUDING COST ESTIMATES. GOS RESPONSE WAS REQUESTED BY 5 JAN 76. A REVIEW OF THE PROPOSED POI LEADS US TO BELIEVE THAT THE PROGRAM IS WELL ORGANIZED AND WELL FITTED TO THE OBJECTIVES. SOME ADDITIONAL COURSE CONTENT REMARKS WILL BE FORWARDED SEPARATELY.

2. BELIEVE IT IS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO GET SUBSTANTIVE GOS ANSWER BY 5 JAN. THIS IS DUE TO HOLIDAY SEASON, OBSERVED AS ASSIDUOUSLY WITHIN SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT AS IN WASHINGTON, AS WELL AS TO NECESSITY OF CLARIFYING SOME ITEMS ON COSTING SCHEDULE IN ORDER TO MEET EXPECTED GOS QUESTIONS RE COST BASIS. DAO SINGAPORE BY SEPARATE TELEGRAM IS REQUESTING CLARIFICATION AND EXPLANATION OF COST ESTIMATES DIRECT WITH TRADOC IN ORDER TO PRESENT AS FULL AN EXPLANATION AS POSSIBLE TO MINDEF.

3. WE ARE FRANKLY TAKEN ABACK BY HIGH OVERALL COST AND HAVE SOME HESITATION IN EVEN ADVANCING THIS FIGURE TO GOS. WHILE GOS HAS NOT PROVIDED US SPECIFIC  
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FIGURE FOR FIXED BUDGET ALLOCATED TO THIS PROGRAM, IT

IS MOST UNLIKELY THAT MINDEF HAS PLANNED ON COSTS APPROACHING EVEN ONE HALF THE 8,000 DOLLARS PER MAN OF REFTEL. A QUICK REVIEW OF MILITARY TRAINING COSTS PURCHASED HERE UNDER FMS IN THE LAST YEAR GIVES AN AVERAGE OF ABOUT 2,000 DOLLARS FOR SIMILAR LENGTH COURSES. FURTHER, THE LATEST HIGHER LEVEL COURSE PURCHASED BY GOS IS A SIX MONTH NAVAL WAR COLLEGE COURSE AT 7,190 DOLLARS, A TWO YEAR COURSE AT USNPG SCHOOL MONTEREY AT 17,000, AND UNDER SOME CONSIDERATION IS A YEAR'S MASTER DEGREE COURSE AT USAFIT WRIGHT PATTERSON FOR 6,920 DOLLARS. IN VIEW OF THIS RECENT PAST COSTING EXPERIENCE, AND EVEN REALIZING UNIQUE NATURE OF THIS PROGRAM, THE FIGURE OF 8,000 DOLLARS PER MAN FOR A ONE MONTH PROGRAM OF INSTRUCTION WILL BE TOTALLY UNEXPECTED AND WHEN ADDED TO TRAVEL AND SUBSISTANCE ALLOWANCES WILL CERTAINLY EXCEED BUDGET ALLOCATION. GOS DOES NOT EXPECT FREE OR CHEAP COURSE, BUT NEITHER COULD IT BE PREPARED FOR REFTEL ORDER OF MAGNITUDE.

4. DEPARTMENT SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF GOS DECLINES OFFER AS IT NOW STANDS. REGARDLESS OF HIGH PRIORITY PLACED ON THIS PROJECT BY DEFENSE MINISTER GOH KENG SWEE, HE IS ABOVE ALL A FINANCIAL MANAGER PAR EXCELLENCE WHO SCRUTINIZES PERSONALLY EVERY MINDEF EXPENDITURE. (IT WAS UNDOUBTEDLY AT HIS INSTIGATION THAT QUESTION OF FORMAL OFFSET AGREEMENT WAS RAISED WITH US TO COMPENSATE FOR HIGH COSTS OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES WHICH GOS IS NOW PURCHASING THROUGH FMS.) WE ESTIMATE A HIGH PROBABILITY THAT DR. GOH WILL JUDGE THE PRICE UNACCEPTABLE ON A COST EFFECTIVE BASIS. HOLDRIDGE

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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